



Thea Stilton

MOUSEFORD ACADEMY

**DANCE
CHALLENGE**



 **SCHOLASTIC**

HELLO! WELCOME TO THE
FABUMOUSE WORLD OF THE
THEA SISTERS!



Thea Sisters



Hi, I'm Thea Stilton, Geronimo Stilton's sister! I am a special reporter for The Rodent's Gazette, the most famous newspaper on Mouse Island. I love traveling and meeting new mice all over the world, like the Thea Sisters. These five friends have helped me out with my adventures. Let me introduce you to these fabumouse young mice!



Colette has a real passion for fashion. She loves to design her own clothes in her favorite color, pink.



Violet loves studying and learning new things. She is a fan of classical music and dreams of becoming a famous violinist someday.





Pamela loves pizza so much she eats it for breakfast. She is a skilled mechanic who can fix just about any motor she gets her paws on.



PAULINA is shy and loves to read about faraway places. But she loves traveling to those places even more.



Nicky is from the Australian Outback, where she developed a love of nature and the environment. This outdoors-loving mouse is always on the move.



Thea Sisters

Thea Stilton

MOUSEFORD ACADEMY

DANCE CHALLENGE



Scholastic Inc.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this publication may be reproduced, transmitted, downloaded, decompiled, reverse engineered, or stored in or introduced into any information storage and retrieval system, in any form or by any means, whether electronic or mechanical, now known or hereafter invented, without the express written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, please contact Atlantyca S.p.A., Via Leopardi 8, 20123 Milan, Italy; e-mail foreignrights@atlantyca.it, www.atlantyca.com.

e-ISBN 978-0-545-67021-0

Copyright © 2010 by Edizioni Piemme S.p.A., Corso Como 15, 20154 Milan, Italy.

International Rights © Atlantyca S.p.A.

English translation © 2014 by Atlantyca S.p.A.

GERONIMO STILTON and THEA STILTON names, characters, and related indicia are copyright, trademark, and exclusive license of Atlantyca S.p.A. All rights reserved. The moral right of the author has been asserted.

Based on an original idea by Elisabetta Dami.

www.geronimostilton.com

Published by Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

Stilton is the name of a famous English cheese. It is a registered trademark of the Stilton Cheese Makers' Association. For more information, go to www.stiltoncheese.com.

Text by Thea Stilton

Original title *Sfida a ritmo di danza!*

Cover by Giuseppe Facciotto

Illustrations by Francesco Castelli

Graphics by Yuko Egusa

Special thanks to Beth Dunfey

Translated by Emily Clement

Interior design by Becky James

First printing, September 2014



WELCOME BACK, MOUSELETS!

A cool **BREEZE** blew through the port at Whale Island, carrying the crisp scent of autumn along with it.

Mouseford Academy was just opening after the long **SUMMER** break, and Vince Guymouse's ferryboat was filled with chattering students. They were thrilled to be back with their friends again.

"**Come on, mouselings!**" called Pamela, scampering off the ship with Colette, Nicky, Paulina, and Violet. "I have a feeling lots of fabumouse **surprises** are waiting for us this year."

"You said it!" Nicky said. "I can't wait to check out the creative writing class."





“And I’m looking forward to my violin lessons,” said Violet, *smiling*.

“Mouselets, aren’t you forgetting the most important thing?” Colette interrupted.

“Of course!” Pamela remembered. “The headmaster promised us that we’d have *acting*, *singing*, and *dancing* lessons this year.”

With a squeak of glee, Paulina grabbed Pamela by the paw. Together the two rodents glided into a graceful tango.

“*HOLEY CHEESE*, you’re way ahead of the rest of us!” Colette laughed. “A special class dedicated to music and theater sounds so fun.”

“Yes, it will be absolutely *fabumouse*,” Nicky agreed. “Let’s all sign up!”

“*Friends together, mice forever!*” the mouselets cheered.



The Thea Sisters' enthusiasm attracted the attention of their classmates Tanja and Craig, who were also **scrambling** off the ferry.

"Howdy, mouselets!" Craig greeted them. "So good to see you! What are you five **celebrating**?"

"We can't wait to start that new drama class," Paulina explained.

"This year, we'll have something to **sing** about," warbled Nicky, pretending there was a microphone in her paw.

"**HA. HA. HA!**" Tanja laughed. "So you're planning to sign up, too? I've been



dreaming about it all summer.”

Shen scurried over to the little group.

“I’ve been preparing for drama class, too,” he said, pointing to the **SUITCASE** he was



dragging behind him. “I’ve got all the most important plays from the last hundred years in there. I want to make a **good impression** on the new professor!”

“Well, I’m not sure the theater is the best showcase for talent as big as mine,” joked Craig, sticking his snout in the air snobbishly. Then he grabbed Violet by the paw and sent her into a series of **twirls** that made her tail spin!

His friends burst into **applause**, encouraging the dancers. With every twist





and turn, they drew closer to Shen's suitcase.
Closer and closer, until . . .



The two rodents bumped right into the
suitcase, knocking it over with a spectacular
CRASH!

Nicky leaned over and gave Craig and
Violet a helping paw. "For now, maybe we
should just try to get to class in **one**
piece!" she said, laughing.



THE NEW PROFESSOR

Violet and Craig had just gotten back on their paws when Elly Squid scurried up to them. “Come on, rodents, **shake a tail!** The headmaster is heading this way to greet the new teacher.”

“I can’t wait to meet her!” Pam exclaimed. “Professor Ratyshnikov is a real **CELEBRITY!**” She and her friends headed toward the small **STAGE** that the headmaster had set up to welcome the new professor.

“She’s directed more than thirty **plays** and musicals. She’s a true **LEGEND,**” Paulina agreed.

“I heard she brought her **best** assistants



to teach us,” Tanja put in.

“**Moldy mozzarella!** I absolutely must find something to wear for the first class,” Colette murmured.

“If I were you, I’d think twice before changing my whole **WARDROBE**, Colette,” a voice squeaked sharply. “A class this exclusive certainly isn’t for everyone!”

The mouselets turned. There was only one rodent who would make that kind of comment:
Ruby Flashyfur!

The mouselet was sashaying toward them, surrounded by her faithful friends, the Ruby Crew. She looked over each of the Thea Sisters from snout to paw before continuing.

“Of course, you could always





try out, if you have the **nerve** . . .”

“Of course we have the nerve!” Pamela spluttered indignantly.

“We’ll practice and work hard, just like we always do,” Nicky added **proudly**. But Ruby and her friends just flounced away with their snouts in the air.

Throughout this whole exchange, Violet was as **quiet** as a mouse. She was thinking hard. Her father was an orchestra conductor, and her mother was a singer. She’d heard them squeaking about **Professor Ratyshnikov**.

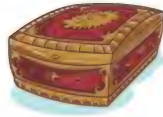
Mouseford’s newest instructor had been a famous ballerina, and she was known all over the world as a great artist . . . with a **terrible** personality! She had a reputation for being demanding and strict — and for squeaking sharply to her students and assistants.



Violet **SUSPECTED** that Professor Ratyshnikov's class would be difficult in more ways than one, but she didn't want to **alarm** her friends until she met the teacher for herself. So she said nothing.



“**Come on**, let's go,” Elly exclaimed. “Professor Ratyshnikov's motorboat is about to arrive!”



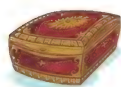
A STRANGE WELCOME

Sure enough, a large white motorboat was rumbling into the harbor.

All the students were **buzzing**. They milled around the dock, stretching to get a look at the **FAMOUSE** director. The entire faculty had crowded nearby.

Octavius de Mousus, Mouseford Academy's headmaster, seemed agitated. He couldn't stop pacing **BACK** and **FORTH** like a cat outside a mousehole.

"Is my tie on straight?" he asked Professor Marblemouse, tugging on his shirt collar. "The stage is **big** enough, right?" he asked Professor Sparkle, who reassured him for the hundredth time.



Then the headmaster dug into his pockets. “And my speech? Where did I put my speech?” he cried. Professor Rattcliff pawed him a few **sheets** of paper, shaking her snout patiently.

“Even the headmaster seems **nervous**,” Paulina whispered to her friends.

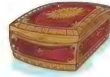
“Yeah,” Colette agreed. “This new class must be really **important**!”



Finally, the motorboat docked. A moment later, a **slender, elegant** rodent with long blond fur appeared on the gangplank.

As soon as the rodent’s paws touched solid ground, the headmaster began his speech. He was stuttering with **excitement**.

“Friends, students, colleagues, I am proud



to present to you Professor Ratyshnikov, the leader of our new department of Arts, Music, and Theater,” he squeaked proudly. “This is a **NEW** chapter in the prestigious history of Mouseford Academy!”

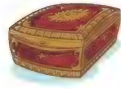
The students and teachers all applauded. But Professor Ratyshnikov didn’t even crack a smile. She stepped forward with an air of *indifference*.

Professor Datamouse gave the headmaster an ornately carved **BOX**. Professor de Mousus took it with both paws and extended it toward the new instructor.

But Professor Ratyshnikov turned her snout away. “Thank you for everything, Octavius, but I absolutely detest these ceremonies! You should have known better.”

The headmaster grew as still as a **BLOCK** of aged cheddar. Before he





could squeak, the new professor added, “We have a lot of work to do. There’s no reason to waste any more **time** hanging around here!”

With that, she strode away, heading for the academy. After a few **awkward** moments, everyone followed her.



AN INTRIGUING MYSTERY

“That was weird!” Paulina squeaked as she headed toward campus with the other Thea Sisters. They were all surprised by the **SHARP** tone the new professor had used with the headmaster.

“I wonder what was inside that beautiful box,” Nicky reflected.

“**Hmm . . .**” Pamela wondered. “Yeah, me, too.”

“I’ll bet it was a **special** welcome gift,” Violet put in.

Just then, a flaming **RED** convertible stopped next to them.

It was Professor Bartholomew Sparkle.

Pamela seized the chance to ask him



about the ceremony. “That was **strange**, don’t you think, Professor?” She was hoping he could tell them a little more about the **mYstEriOuS** Professor Ratyshnikov.

Professor Sparkle nodded. “Of course, none of the staff expected the ceremony to be cut short like that,” he agreed. “Though the headmaster did warn us that Professor Ratyshnikov can be more **PRICKLY** than a porcupine!”





“So the headmaster already knows Professor Ratyshnikov?” Violet asked.

“That’s right,” the professor said. “I’ve heard he and Professor Ratyshnikov were fast **FRIENDS** back when they attended Mouseford together. But then something happened, and she left the academy very suddenly, without graduating.”

“Do you mean Professor Ratyshnikov **quit**?!” Colette asked in surprise.





“That’s what they say, but unfortunately that’s all I know about it,” Professor Sparkle said. “Well, I must be off! I’ll see you in class, mouselets.” He drove away.

“So the headmaster and Professor Ratyshnikov have known each other since they were very young, but then something happened to **SEPARATE** them,” Pamela said slowly.

“Uh-huh,” Nicky confirmed. “Don’t you want to find out what? *I’m more curious than a cat!*”



PROPS IN THEIR PROPER PLACE

When the Thea Sisters reached the academy, a large red truck was **BLOCKING** the main entrance. A crowd of students had gathered, and they were unloading strangely **shaped** objects. Tanja, Craig, and Shen were among them. Their paws were full of **colorful** boxes and packages.

“Mouselets, give us a paw!” Tanja called out. “We have to carry these **COSTUMES**, **WIGS**, and **PROPS** inside.”

“Yeah, we need all the help we can get,” said Craig, who was bent under the weight of a large mirror. “It looks like we’re going to **BUILD** a whole new theater!”

As the students struggled with their loads,







a rodent with a **cheerful** snout popped out of the truck.

Paulina nudged Colette. “Hey, I think that’s the new drama teacher, **PROFESSOR ROBERT PLOTFUR!**”



**PROFESSOR ROBERT
PLOTFUR**

The professor sprang out of the truck.

“Come on, move those paws, mouselings!”

he cried, brushing a **lock** of fur off his forehead.

A few moments later, another new teacher stopped by. It was **Professor Rosalyn Plié**, the dance professor.

Professor Plotfur hadn’t noticed her yet —



he was busy unloading his **TRUCK**. The young professor glided toward him gracefully. “Hi, Professor Plotfur. Good to see you again.”

“Hey there, Professor Plié!” he replied, giving her a **BOX** full of costumes and wigs. “You’ve arrived just in the nick of time.”

“Um . . . what’s this?” Professor Plié stuttered, staggering under the box’s weight.

“Lend me a paw, please, I have to **hurry**!” Professor Plotfur said as he scurried inside the building. “I just remembered I left the **FAUCET** running in my room. I don’t want to



Professor Rosalyn Plié





flood the academy on my first day!”

*“That’s Professor Plotfur for you . . .
always with his snout in the stratosphere!”*

said Professor Plié. She rolled her eyes affectionately.



LIKE A THUNDERBOLT!

The Thea Sisters immediately offered Professor Plié their help.

“I’m **PAMELA**, and this is **Violet**, **Nicky**, **PAULINA**, and **Colette**,” Pamela said, taking a box of wigs out of the new professor’s paws.

“Thank you very much, mouselets,” the instructor said warmly. “We still need to get settled, but it’s a great pleasure to be teaching at this academy.”

“You’re part of the new **THEATER** department, right?” Violet asked, lifting another **BOX**.

“Exactly!” Professor Plié answered. She and the Thea Sisters had entered the



academy and were heading toward the drama classroom. “Our department was created by Professor Ratyshnikov. She’s divided the **class** into three **sections**: one in acting, taught by Professor Plotfur; one in dance, which is mine; and then there’s **PROFESSOR ANNA ARIA**, your singing teacher.” Professor Plié pointed to Professor Ratyshnikov’s third instructor.

A lively young rodent whose fur was streaked with **colorful** strands stood at the door to the classroom. But before the Thea Sisters could introduce themselves, loud music started **thumping**.

The singing teacher was instantly surrounded by a **noisy** throng of students,





pushing their way into the classroom to see what was **happening**. The Thea Sisters and Professor Plié couldn't help but join them.

Ruby and her crew had been practicing all morning. They were determined to **impress** their new teachers, and they had decided to perform right there, in front of everyone.





shouted Ruby.

In the blink of a cat's eye, Zoe, Alicia, and Connie stepped into formation and began performing a **song** and **dance** number.

"I can't believe it!" exclaimed Pamela, shocked. "This time Ruby has really outdone herself!"

"Um, are those mouselets your **friends**?" Professor Plié whispered.

"Not exactly," Paulina replied.

"Well, they certainly had an **ORIGINAL** idea," the professor commented. "But I know each student at this school has a **SPECIAL** talent inside."

Professor Plié smiled at them.

"In my class, you'll learn to show your inner **grace** and **agility**. And Professor Ratyshnikov will teach you how best to



use your **STRENGTH** and *energy*! These qualities are all very important in dance. Soon you'll all know how to express yourselves through *movement*."

The Thea Sisters exchanged **eager** looks. The new class sounded really exciting!

Meanwhile, Ruby and her friends were still dancing and singing. Then suddenly a firm, strict squeak interrupted them.

"Who is responsible for that awful shrieking?!"

Professor Ratyshnikov swept into the classroom, with the headmaster trailing behind her.

Ruby stopped singing and dancing instantly, as did Alicia and Zoe. Connie was so embarrassed, she hid her snout in her



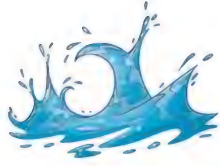


Zoe hurried to turn off the music. Her fur had turned **redder** than a Gouda cheese rind.

An awkward silence fell over the room. All the students were **intimidated**. Professor Ratyshnikov looked **stricter** than a barn owl on a rodent-free diet.

The professor stared at the Ruby Crew. Then her eyes swept over the rest of the **STUDENTS**. “Well, since there are so many students here, why don’t I take this opportunity to look you over?” she said. “Let’s see what we’ve got!”





A STORM BREWING

Professor Ratyshnikov turned away from the Ruby Crew and toward Colette, Nicky, Pam, Paulina, and Violet!

“Ah yes, let me introduce some of our *finest* students, the Thea Sisters,” the headmaster squeaked. He

Passable, but barely . . .



gestured toward Colette, who bowed nervously.

“Yes, very nice,” said the professor, *examining* Colette with a *critical* eye.

“You are rather graceful . . . but you don’t seem to



Straighten your back!



know what to do with your **P A W S!**

Then she moved on to Violet, who curtsied. “You have the body of a dancer, young mouselet. But what’s going on with that **arched** back?”

Professor Ratyshnikov turned to Paulina, who was twisting her long braid. “You look agile enough, but you must stop **fidgeting!** And you,” she said, turning to Pamela. “Good muscles,

Don't fidget!





but your posture is **STIFFER** than a moldy cheese stick!”

Nicky took a step forward, thinking she might as well get it over with.

Professor Ratyshnikov looked her over from

snout to **toe**.

“You have good paws, but be careful with them, we’re not on a **SOCCER** field!”

Ruby Flashyfur

was enjoying the Thea Sisters’ stunned expressions.

Finally, Ruby thought.





Someone figured out how to wipe the **smug** smiles off those mouselets' snouts!

"I've seen enough," Professor Ratyshnikov continued. "I strongly recommend that you all enroll in my class if you want to acquire any *elegance* and **grace**."

The headmaster cleared his throat. "Students, you are in for a unique **experience**! Professor Ratyshnikov and her class represent something entirely **NEW** for this institution, and I'm sure you'll all seize this marvemouse op —"

"Yes, you all simply must sign up," Professor Ratyshnikov interrupted. "For years, my students have gone on to become world-class performers. It's about time **MOUSEFORD ACADEMY** recognized my talent!"

The **headmaster** drew Professor Ratyshnikov aside. "My dear professor, I can



assure you that these students are among your greatest admirers,” he whispered. “They’re **eager** to study under your brilliant tutelage.”

Professor Ratyshnikov was unmoved. “Are you sure that things have changed so much since —” She stopped abruptly, leaving the words hanging in **EMPTY** air. Then she called to her assistant professors and **scurried** away.

The Thea Sisters had been standing close enough to overhear this heated exchange between the headmaster and Professor Ratyshnikov. Colette raised her eyebrows **CURIIOUSLY**.

On the other paw, Ruby and her friends hadn’t noticed the conversation between the two professors. They were too busy giggling over what the new professor had said to the



Thea Sisters.

Ruby was **enchanted** by the new instructor's personality. Professor Ratyshnikov was famous, fascinating, *elegant*, and above all, she struck fear into the fur of the rodents around her. These were exactly the qualities Ruby herself **hoped** to develop!



“Zoe! Alicia! Connie!” Ruby called to her friends. “We **absolutely** must sign up for that class. This could be my big break, and I’m not letting anything or **anyone** stop me!”



A PEEK INTO THE PAST

The Thea Sisters gathered around as Ruby, Connie, Zoe, and Alicia scampered off to their **rooms**.

“This new class seems like it’s going to be tougher than a temperamental tomcat,” Pamela said. “But I love a challenge, don’t you? **We’ll just have to give it our all!**”

“Don’t forget, we also have to uncover the truth about the headmaster and Professor Ratyshnikov’s **past**,” Violet said. “Every time he tries to do something nice for her . . .”

“She gets more **FURIOUS** than a fly in fondue!” Paulina concluded.

“It’s true,” Colette mused. “Hey, did anyone else notice her gorgeous fur? I wonder if she



uses the same **CUCUMBER OIL** as me.”

“Yet another big mystery to solve,” replied Pamela, giggling.

“Hey, Professor Ratyshnikov was a student at the academy, right?” said Paulina. “Maybe we could find **CLUES** about her history in the Hall of Records.”

“**Great idea**,” Pamela replied. “The Hall of Records has a **photo** of every student who ever came to the academy.”

The mouselets scurried through the herb garden and entered the North Tower, which led them directly to the Hall of Records.

“**LOOK!**” Nicky exclaimed, pointing to a photo on the wall. “Remember? That’s from our first year at the academy!”

“Do you remember how new and **EXCITING** it all was back then?” Paulina sighed.



“Yeah!” Nicky said. “And look, there’s **THEA.**”

Colette smiled. “Just think about how many roads she’s traveled since then.”

“And how many we have, too!” Pamela added with a grin.

Violet was scanning the walls for a **photo** of Professor Ratyshnikov.





“To find her, we’ll need to go back to photos from many years ago — wait, here we go. **THESE ARE THE PICTURES WE’RE LOOKING FOR!**”





BOOMER'S TALE

Just then, a familiar squeak distracted the Thea Sisters. “Are you **LOOKING** for something, mouselets?”

It was Boomer Whale, the academy’s handymouse. Boomer knew every **detail** of Mouseford’s history, and he took his job seriously. Every day, he **dusted** the photographs from one end of the hall to the other.

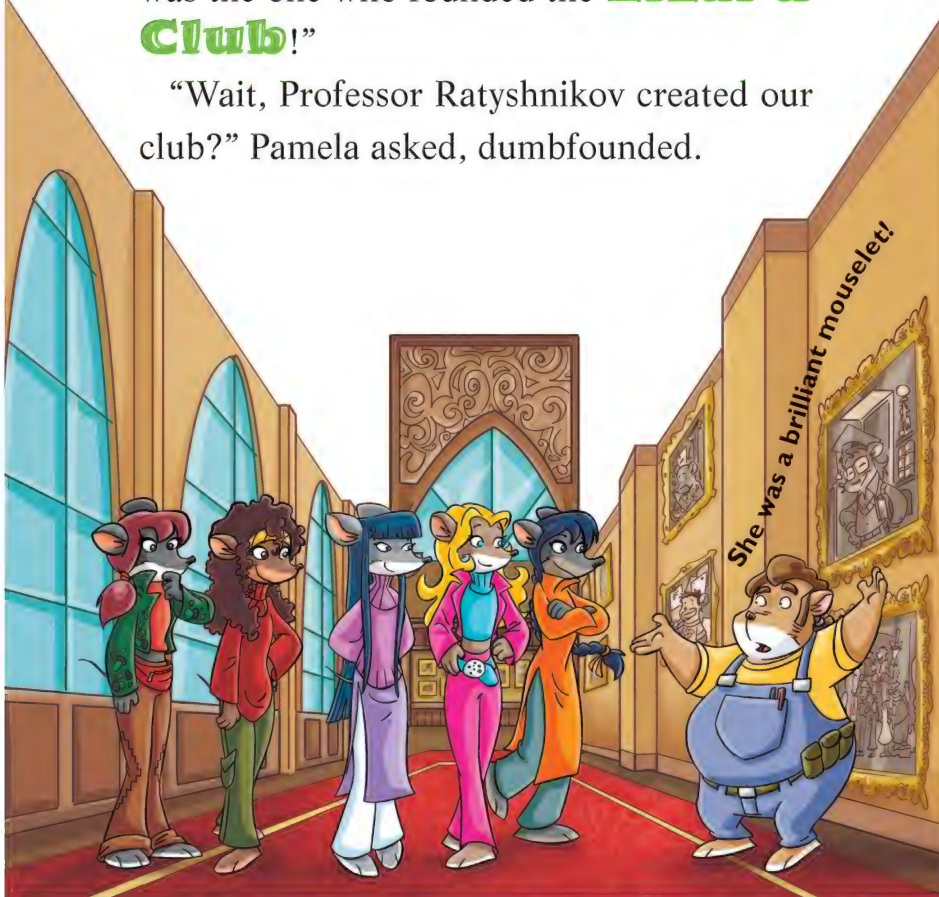
“Hi, Boomer,” Nicky said. “We’re looking for a photo of Professor Ratyshnikov. We **heard** she attended the academy back when she was a mouselet.”

“That’s right,” Boomer replied. “I was just a **mouselet** myself back then, but I used



to help my father when he had this job. I remember Miss Ratyshnikov very well. She was a **lively** mouselet who was full of ideas — a bit like the five of you! In fact, she was the one who founded the **Lizard Club!**”

“Wait, Professor Ratyshnikov created our club?” Pamela asked, dumbfounded.





“That’s right,” Boomer said. “It was a completely **NEW** and groundbreaking idea. Up until then, the academy had the Gecko Club, which was only for male mice. Miss Ratyshnikov fought for **equality** between males and females here at Mouseford. Unfortunately, she was up against a very **STRICT**, old-fashioned headmaster!”

Boomer pointed to a photograph of a stern-looking rodent with long, white **WHISKERS**. “He gave Miss Ratyshnikov a challenge: ‘If you want a club of your own, you must win a **competition** against the mice in the Gecko Club,’” Boomer continued.



Violet **listened** with bated breath. “So what





did Professor Ratyshnikov do?”

“She accepted the challenge, of course!” Boomer said. “But **something** went wrong during the competition, and she ended up leaving the academy. I never knew what happened, but it must’ve been something **terrible**, because Miss Ratyshnikov never came back. It was tragic, really, because she got her wish — the mouselets’ club was founded, but by then it was too late for her to **enjoy** it.”

The Thea Sisters thanked the handymouse and headed toward their dorm.

“So what do you think happened?” Violet asked.

“I don’t know,” said Colette. “I’m more **confused** than ever!”

“Me, too,” said Nicky. “And I wonder how the headmaster was **involved**. . . .”





A NEW CHALLENGE

The next morning, Pamela scampered through the academy's halls, shouting, "Move those tails, mouselets, or we'll be late for sign-up!"

They were just a few moments away from

the first **session** of the new **class**. Right now the **challenge** between the Geckos and the Lizards seemed like ancient history!

The headmaster had reserved the **GYMNASIUM** for Professor Ratyshnikov's first class.

Light was shining through





the large windows, reflecting off the enormous **MIRRORS**. Ballet barres lined the walls. Chairs had been lined up for the students hoping to earn a place in the class.

Professor Ratyshnikov and her three **assistant professors** were already in the gym. The mouselets took their seats silently, intimidated by the stern look on the professor's snout. Luckily, Professor Plié greeted the Thea Sisters with a big **smile**.

Ruby was the last student to enter the classroom. She crossed the room with her snout held high. Her friends had saved her a seat in the front **ROW**.

Nicky noticed that Ryder Flashyfur was there, too, at the very back of the room. Ruby's **brother** liked to play it cooler than cottage cheese, but it seemed the new







class had aroused his curiosity, too.

As soon as everyone was seated, Professor Ratyshnikov began **squeaking**. “Mouseford students, I am pleased to offer you this class on the dramatic arts. It will be taught at the highest level, which is why you’ll need to audition in order to enroll.”

At the word **AUDITION**, an anxious ripple passed through the students. But Professor Ratyshnikov stopped the murmurs with an **icy** look.

“To earn a spot in my class, you must demonstrate that you know how to **dance**, that you understand **music**, that you can sing in tune, and that you have the gift of interpretation,” she went on. “And let me make one final thing clear: I will not tolerate cheating of any kind!”

“*We’ll do our best!*” Paulina squeaked



before she could stop herself. Professor Ratyshnikov's words had rubbed her fur the wrong way. "If there's one thing we've learned here at the academy, it's how to work **honestly** and diligently."

"We'll see about that," the professor sniffed. "Those who wish to try their luck will have one week to prepare a dance audition with **COSTUMES**, **music**, and **LIGHTS**!"

With that, Professor Ratyshnikov swept from the classroom, leaving the students **CHATTERING** nervously in her wake.

"Did you hear that, mouselets?" Violet cried. "Is it me, or does Professor

*We always
work our hardest!*



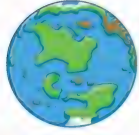


Ratyshnikov seem to have a **grudge** against the whole academy?”

Colette nodded. “It’s almost as if she’s expecting us to fail.”

Pam was frowning. “And she seems to think we’ll try to cheat!”

“**Snouts up, sisters!**” Nicky exclaimed. “We’ll convince Professor Ratyshnikov that she’s **WRONG** by earning spots at the top of her class!”



DON'T BE SCARED OFF!

Professor Ratyshnikov's three assistant professors stayed in the gymnasium to squeak with the students.

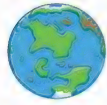
"The auditions will be **challenging**, but don't let that scare you off," Professor Aria began.

"We're asking you to do a lot of work," continued Professor Plotfur, "but we're not expecting **perfection**."

Professor Plié nodded. "The theme of the show will be the **WORLD THROUGH DANCE!** Each team must use dance to express the way they see the world around them."

"What a cool challenge!" Nicky said.

"It could be really **FUN**," Violet agreed.



“We’re going to split you into small groups, but first we need to get to know you better,” Professor Aria explained. “We’d like to see you one at a time so we can figure out which group you’d fit into best.”

“We’ll call you in alphabetical order,” added Professor Plotfur, trying to read the **MESSY** sign-up list. “Or maybe we’ll just go in random order!” He put the **SHEET** back on the desk.

The students filed into the **hallway** to wait their turns.

“I have no idea what’s waiting for us in there,” Paulina whispered to Violet.

Her friend took her paw. “Don’t worry! When you’re in there, it’ll just be you, and you’ll be **great!**”

One by one, the students were called into the gymnasium, each with his or her tail in



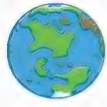
a twist. But by the time they finished, they seemed **LIGHT** as freshly grated Parmesan. The rodents started chatting with one another about their assignment.

At the end of the day, the students returned to the gym to be **divided** up. The Thea Sisters were all assigned to the same dance group. Their team included Elly and Tanja for costume design and Shen for music and lights. The band of friends celebrated the good news with a round of **hugs** and high-fives.

Ruby was in good spirits, too. She'd been assigned to a team with the Ruby Crew, and they were working with Ryder, Sebastian, and Craig.

A **spiteful** look crept across her snout as she glanced over at the Thea Sisters. "**YOU'D BETTER CELEBRATE WHILE YOU CAN, MY**

DON'T BE



SCARED OFF!

DEAR MOUSELINGS,” she murmured under her breath. “Because we’re going to make Swiss cheese out of you!”





SHINING LIGHT ON THE PAST

As the Thea Sisters were heading out of the **GYM**, Professor Plié approached Paulina.

“You know, Paulina, I really **appreciated** what you said during the professor’s speech,” she said. “**Honesty** and hard work are important, and I’m sure that you’ll all do your best.”

The other mouselets were curious, so Paulina took the opportunity to ask a question. “Why is Professor Ratyshnikov so **HARD** on the headmaster and the academy?”

Professor Plié sighed. “Professor Ratyshnikov is a very **challenging** teacher. Ever since she left Mouseford, she



has demanded as much of her students as she does of **HERSELF**.”

“We know she had to compete against the **GECKO CLUB**,” Paulina said, “but what happened after that? Why did she leave the **ACADEMY**?”

It's a story
from years ago



“I’m afraid I don’t have all the details,” Professor Plié began. “But I do know that the current **Headmaster**, Octavius de Mousus, was the president of the Gecko Club at the **time of the challenge**. Professor Ratyshnikov had to face him in a series



of **competitions**, even though they were good friends at the time.”

It was so quiet, you could hear a cheese slice drop. The **mouselets** were hanging on to every word of the professor’s story.

“After the first challenge, the two teams were tied. Then, during the math challenge,





Professor Ratyshnikov pushed the mouselets' team into the lead. But it wasn't over: The final test was an **athletic** contest. Professor Ratyshnikov's team was super prepared, but something went **wrong**, and the Geckos won.

"Professor Ratyshnikov accused Professor de Mousus's team of **cheating**. But the





headmaster at that time wouldn't hear a word of it. So she decided to quit."

"What a **sad** story," said Colette. "That's a terrible way for a friendship to end!"

Paulina looked worried. "I just can't believe Professor de Mousus would **sabotage** Professor Ratyshnikov's team," she said. "That doesn't seem like him."

"You're right, Paulina," Violet said. "He's always taught us to behave **honestly** and **HONORABLY**."

"Sisters, something stinks worse than rotten Gouda," said Pam. "Looks like we've got a job to do."

Nicky nodded. "We've got to **show** Professor Ratyshnikov the academy is a fair place now," Nicky said. "And help the headmaster repair an old **friendship**!"



BEWARE OF SPIES

The next day, the Thea Sisters' team met to prepare for their performance.

Colette had the perfect song for their audition. She brought a **STEREO** to play it for her friends. The melody began with a *sweet*, sad theme that gradually became **LIVELY**, until it exploded into a rhythm bursting with energy!

"You like it, right?" Colette said happily.

Her friends were shaking their snouts and tapping their tails to the *rhythm*. "I've loved this piece since I was little. Don't you think it would work for our audition?"





“It’s beautiful, Colette!” Paulina exclaimed.

“If we rearrange it here and there, we could make it a bit more **modern**,” Nicky suggested.

“And with lights, we can create just the right atmosphere!” Shen added.

Tanja thought about the **COSTUMES**.
“What do you say to colors inspired by **SUMMERTIME**?”

“Yes, bright, warm colors . . . that sounds perfect!” Elly added.

Violet stood up. “Great! How about a nice cup of **tea** to get us started?”

“Don’t forget the **cheese slices**!” said Pam. She was always hungry. “A whole heap of ’em!”

Little did the mouselets realize that someone was **lurking** in the hallway outside their classroom. She was carrying a



Fabumouse!

For the costumes,
let's use summer colors.



duster and wore a large apron and a green kerchief over her fur. It was Zoe!

You see, the Ruby Crew was determined to do whatever it took to **win**. Ruby was making a **MYSTERIOUS** telephone call, and Alicia and Connie were scouring all the costume stores on the island. But Zoe had the most important job: **spying** on the Thea Sisters!

Zoe crept closer and closer to the door of the room where the mouselets' group was meeting. She listened **carefully**, trying to memorize every note of the melody.

But when Violet scampered out of the classroom to make the tea . . .

BAM!

The door swung open and smacked Zoe right in the snout!



“Yee-ouch!” she cried. She quickly jumped to her **P A W S** and scurried away. The last thing Zoe wanted was to blow her cover. She had run a big **risk**, but she’d accomplished her mission!





I SMELL A RAT!

While the Ruby Crew was plotting, the Thea Sisters' group was preparing for the AUDITION.

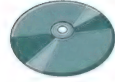
Over the next few days, the teams took turns rehearsing in the large, MIRRORED classroom that Professor Ratyshnikov had reserved for her class.

“Come on, mouselets!” Paulina called to her friends as they all headed to practice.

“It’s our turn!”

“Shhh!” Violet suddenly whispered. “Listen! Doesn’t that TUNE sound familiar?!”

“Slimy Swiss balls!” cried Nicky. “Someone’s been spying on us!”



The mouselets burst into the classroom, where a **TERRIBLE** surprise awaited them: The Ruby Crew was practicing to the notes of their music!

Pam was **boiling** like a pot of forgotten fondue. “Where did you get this music?!”

“Do you like it?” Ruby asked innocently. “We chose it for our audition, and Professor Ratyshnikov **L-O-V-E-D** it. She told us we’d made a fabumouse selection!”

Zoe, Connie, and Alicia exchanged a **nasty** look as they stifled their giggles.



In the far corner of the room, Ryder stopped practicing.

He **shook** his snout. He didn’t know exactly what Ruby was up to, but he suspected his sister was playing **dirty** again.



Colette had tears of **disappointment** in her eyes. "You can't do that! This music is ours!"

"Don't worry, Colette," said Pamela, leading her friend away by the paw. "We'll find another piece of music that's even **better**. You'll see!"

"Pam's right," Nicky agreed. "It's the only thing we can do. We have no way to prove that low-down, sneaky mouselet **stole** our music!"

**"But how did they find
out about our song?"**

Paulina asked in disbelief.

Violet instantly remembered the moment a few days earlier when someone had **SLIPPED** outside their rehearsal room door. "I smell a rat," she declared. "Someone was eavesdropping when we chose our **MUSIC**."



“You don’t have a shred of **PROOF!**”
Ruby cried.

“Come on, mouselets,” said Shen. “It’s not
worth wasting any more **time** on these
sneaks! Let’s go make a **plan**.”





There was nothing else for the Thea Sisters' team to do. So they went **back** to the Lizard Club's meeting room, dragging their tails behind them.

Hee, hee, hee!





HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF

Colette, Nicky, Pamela, Paulina, Violet, Tanja, Elly, and Shen scurried silently through the hallways. In a moment, all their work had disappeared like cheddar in a cheese grater, and now they only had **two**





days left to prepare for their audition!

“It’ll be hard to find a piece of **MUSIC** that’s just as beautiful for our audition,” Tanja murmured **sadly**.

The students had reached the academy’s main entrance. There they ran into another rodent **roaming** the hallways unhappily — the headmaster. He was in a **BLACK** mood, and his **whiskers** were droopy.





Professor de Mousus was heading in the **OPPOSITE** direction from the mouselets. He and Pamela almost bumped snouts.

“Oh, hello, students,” the headmaster greeted them. “How are you?”

“Not great,” Pamela grumbled. “We’re having a **hard** time with our audition for the new class.”

The headmaster sighed. “Every **+est+** presents its own challenges, but also its own opportunity to learn and grow.”

“But Professor Ratyshnikov’s assignment is so **DIFFICULT!**” Shen said.

“Yeah,” continued Tanja. “It almost seems like she’s making it impossible on purpose!”

“Don’t think that Professor Ratyshnikov doesn’t appreciate your **efforts**,” the headmaster replied. “She has overcome huge obstacles of her own . . .”



“Do you mean the contest for the Lizard Club?” Paulina asked.

The headmaster **twisted** his whiskers. “Ah, so you’ve already heard about the challenge that led to her departure.”

“But how did it **happen**?” Colette asked. “And why?”

The headmaster shook his snout sadly. “Unfortunately, Professor Ratyshnikov was right: Someone **SABOTAGED** her team!”





SABOTAGE!

“Unbelievable!” Colette said. “But who could have wanted to see Professor Ratyshnikov **FAIL**?”

The headmaster **sighed**. “Robert Shadysnout, who was a member of my **TEAM**!”

Shen and the mouselets held their breath, curious to hear the rest of the **sad** story.

“Robert was dead set against the idea of a club for female mice,” the headmaster continued, “but I didn’t think he would stoop to cheating! The night before the final challenge, he spread **OLIVE OIL** on all the athletic equipment, making it impossible to grab or catch anything. Needless to



squeak, the mouselets' **ATHLETIC** exhibition was a cat-astrophe!"

"**What a cold-hearted cheat!**"

Nicky cried.

The **headmaster** nodded. "He really pulled the cheesecloth over my eyes. Professor Ratyshnikov blamed my team, and she quit the academy. I began to believe her **suspicions**, so I tried to find the culprit."

"That's when you realized Robert Shadysnout had been up to **NO GOOD**?" Violet asked.

"Yes," the headmaster confirmed. "I found a **CANISTER** of oil in Shadysnout's bedroom closet, and he confessed."





“But Professor Ratyshnikov had already left, and you had lost **touch**,” Paulina deduced.

“Exactly!” the headmaster sighed. “It was only years later that I tracked her down and told her what had happened. She was glad to know the **truth**, but her trust in me and in Mouseford was already destroyed. I doubt she’ll ever forgive me!”

The mouselets and Shen **WATCHED** the headmaster walk away with the same



sad, preoccupied expression he'd had when they ran into him.

“**Crusty carburetors!**” Pamela cried. “We’ve got to do something to **help** him.”

“That’s a nice idea, Pam, but how?” Violet wondered. “We’re already in big **trouble** with our audition.”

Paulina sighed. “We’re stuck like rats in a maze! We need time to think.”

“What do you say to a **WALK** down to the docks?” Nicky suggested. “We could use some fresh air — and some fresh ideas!”



INSPIRATION AT THE DOCKS

The students stepped outside under the clear, **blue** sky. Nicky took a deep breath. Moments ago, she'd been **mooodier** than a muskrat. But being outside always cheered her up. She was starting to feel better already.

A few minutes later, they'd reached the seaport. Now it was Pam's turn to breathe deeply. "Mmm . . . the smell of the **sea**."

"I just love these vibrant **colors**," Paulina commented, watching the waves reflect the golden beams of the sun.

"The sounds of the ocean always calm me down," said Violet. "**Listen!**"

The mice all stopped squeaking for a moment. The sounds of the sea and the





harbor filled the air around them:

FFRR . . . SSHH!
BONG! BONG!
CLOMP! CLANG!

The lapping of the waves, the faint clang of the lighthouse bells, even the clatter of metal containers opening and closing — all the sounds seemed connected, creating a steady rhythm.

“Listen to that **beat!**” said Pamela.

The mouselets all began to sway, **tapping** their paws to the rhythm.

“Flying fish sticks, I think we’ve got it!” Pam declared. “This is it, rodents! It’s the perfect **music** for our audition.”

“Yes!” Colette agreed excitedly. “For the



choreography, we could move like the ocean **waves** and the **sea birds!**"

"And our costumes could reflect the changing colors of the **ocean**," added Tanja.

"Mixed with the bright colors of the seaport," Elly continued.

"I'll take care of the **music**," Shen said. "I can definitely recreate the sounds of the seaport!"

"Hmm, I'd love to bring together **DIFFERENT** rhythms and styles in the choreography," Tanja reflected.

"Ballet!" Colette suggested.

"Hip-hop!" Pamela added.

"Gymnastics!" Nicky declared.

"Jazz!" Violet interjected.

"And don't forget the tango!" Paulina cried.



“It’s really **inspired!**” Nicky exclaimed.
Pam grinned. “I love it when a plan comes together!”





“This is totally us,” Colette concluded, beaming. “And this is the world we want to express **through dance!**”





A MASKED BALL

Back on campus, the Ruby Crew was **struggling** with their rehearsals. They had the music they wanted, but the choreography was more of a challenge than anyone had expected.

“Move those paws!” Ruby **shouted** at her friends. “You’re all hopeless.”

The rodents were exhausted. Ruby had bought heavy, **ELABORATE** costumes that made every step difficult. The dancers’ awkward movements looked ridiculous under all the folds of fabric.

“We’re too **tired** to move,” said Ryder.

“My paws **hurt**,” Alicia moaned. “And Craig keeps stepping on my paws!”



Zoe slumped to the ground, gasping. “Just admit it, Ruby — our dance is a total **disaster!**”

Ruby’s eyes were **shining**. “I know it is.” She smiled. “But don’t tell me you seriously thought I’d let you cheesebrains make a **FOOL** out of me.”

Connie stopped. “What are you saying?”

A **TRIUMPHANT** expression crossed Ruby’s snout. “Well, in spite of your total lack of talent, our audition is guaranteed to be a smashing **success!**”

The rodents gathered around Ruby as she revealed her **SECRET** plan.





“As soon as I heard about the audition, I called my mom and asked her to find three sensational professional *dancers* to take the place of the boy mice.”

“What?” Ryder protested. “Days and days of work, and we aren’t going to be a part of the audition?!”

“Exactly,” Ruby said. “You’ll come in at the end, so the teachers won’t *notice*!”

“How in the name of cheese can you *replace* Ryder, Craig, and Sebastian with three strangers?” Zoe cried. “The professors will be sure to notice!”

Ruby smirked and took three large *masks* from a package that had arrived that morning. “With these on, no one will be able to tell them apart!”

The mice were squeakless: Ruby had thought of everything!



Ryder was the first to **react**. “How dare you treat us like this?” he spluttered. “You’ve gone **too Far** this time, Ruby!”

He turned and stormed out of the room, with Craig and Sebastian at his paws.





FRIENDS TOGETHER

The Thea Sisters and their friends scurried back to campus to start planning their **new dance**. They ran into Ryder, Sebastian, and Craig as they were heading toward the gym.

“What’s up, ratlets?” Paulina asked, noticing their **dejected** expressions.

“We’re out of the audition!” Sebastian burst out.

The ratlets told the Thea Sisters’ team what had happened.

“So, after **STEALING** our music,” Nicky said incredulously, “Ruby seriously has the nerve to replace you with professional dancers?!”

“I can’t believe it,” said Craig, shaking his



snout. “All that work for **NOTHING!** And now we won’t even get into the class”

“Wait a minute!” Violet said. “Ruby can’t stop you from auditioning, right?”

“No, I guess not,” said Ryder.

“Right! So there’s a **place** for you in our dance,” Colette said. She winked at them.

“That is, as long as you can carry a **beat.**”

Craig grinned. “You **Bet** we can!”

Soon members of the two teams were hard at work — **together!**





1

1:30 P.M.

Pam shows Craig the hip-hop routine.



2

3:30 P.M.

Practice makes perfect!



3

4:30 P.M.

Colette tries to find the right steps with Sebastian.



4

6:40 P.M.

Paulina and Ryder are perfect partners!

5

8:30 P.M.

Practice continues without a break . . . well, maybe a little one!



6

10:50 P.M.

While one rodent takes a ratnap, another gets to work!

7

7:25 A.M.

Elly and Tanja work nonstop on the costumes . . . with some surprises!



8

9:15 A.M.

At last, the dance is ready!



AUDITION DAY!

As the mice prepared their performances, the days seemed to fly by. Before they knew it, it was **AUDITION** time!

The teams assembled in the dance classroom, ready to reveal what they'd been working on. Professor Ratyshnikov and her assistant professors were seated behind a **LONG TABLE** at the front of the room. They were murmuring to one another.

"My throat is completely **dry**, Vi," Pamela whispered. "Do you think I'm coming down with something?"

"No, I don't think so," Violet replied, placing a paw on her friend's forehead. "It's just **nerves**. But you're not alone. Feel



my paws — they're **shaking!**"

Just then, Professor Ratyshnikov cleared her throat, raised an **EYEBROW**, and called the first team. "Ruby Flashyfur and her team may begin, please!"

A murmur went through the other students as Ruby's team took the stage. She and her friends were **magnificent** in their elaborate costumes, and the three masked dancers accompanying them moved in perfect **unison**.



The music began, and everything seemed to unfold perfectly. Ruby, Connie, Zoe, and Alicia danced well, and the professional dancers worked to cover up any **mistakes** their less-experienced partners made.

When the music stopped, the crowd



APPLAUDED enthusiastically. They were all impressed with the dancers' technique.

"It's time to reveal Ruby's **TRICK**," Pamela whispered.

"Wait a second," Colette said. "Maybe we don't need to. Look!" She'd noticed a strange **expression** flitting across the professors' snouts.

Ruby was beaming. But then Professor Ratyshnikov cast the mouselet a look so glacial, it could've **frozen** an iceberg off Coldcreeps Peak.

"We could comment on the technical aspects of your audition," Professor Ratyshnikov said **severely**. "Or the interpretation. But first I'd like to know if the team leader has something to confess."

Ruby turned **PALE** as a mozzarella ball. Professor Ratyshnikov obviously knew that

some of the dancers were **professionals!**

As the students **WATCHED** in stunned silence, Professor Ratyshnikov slowly stepped toward the three dancers.

“**WELL, WELL, WELL . . .** how nice to see you three again,” she said. “I could never forget your **TUMBLING**, Brian! Your paws still don’t **LINE UP** with your shoulders, now do they, Steve? And David! I see you’ve gotten a **furcut!**”





Professor Ratyshnikov knew the dancers that Ruby's mother had hired!

Ruby tried to *explain*, but Professor Ratyshnikov stopped her. "An imposter like you has no place in my class, Ruby! You have proven that the students at this academy lack sincerity and honesty. I am outraged!

I'M LEAVING — FOR GOOD THIS TIME!"



A SECOND CHANCE

Professor Ratyshnikov was about to storm out of the room when someone **BLOCKED** her path.

It was the headmaster. He'd decided he couldn't let the past repeat itself.

"Camille, you've already made the **MISTAKE** of leaving once," he said, calling her by the name he had used back when they were **friends**.

Professor Ratyshnikov was squeakless for a moment. "You've already explained your **point of view**, Octavius, and I agreed to give this academy another chance. But I can see that nothing has changed!"

"I'm not talking about the past," the



headmaster continued, “but about the **FUTURE**: their future!” He pointed to the students, who were watching breathlessly. “Now it’s up to you. You have the chance to change the future. You have the **POWER** to behave differently than our former headmaster!”

Please reconsider, Camille!



“What do you mean?” Professor Ratyshnikov cried in **surprise**.

“If you leave again now, you’ll punish not just the rodents who **cheated**, but also the rodents who’ve worked with dedication



and **honesty**,” the headmaster explained.

Professor Plié stepped in.

“Professor Ratyshnikov, perhaps we could give another **TEAM** the chance to show their **work**?”

“I propose that we judge the Thea Sisters’ performance!” suggested Professor Plotfur, winking at the mouselets.

Professor Ratyshnikov relented. “**All right!** I’ll allow them to perform.”

The Thea Sisters and their teammates looked at one another. They were more nervous than a pack of mice in a lion’s den.

But there was no time for that now. The mouselets and their friends **SPRANG** into action!



THE WORLD THROUGH DANCE

Shen's music started to **pulse** through the air. He quickly adjusted the stage lights to frame a backdrop inspired by the **seaside**. Everything was ready for the performers.

Colette and Sebastian swept onstage. They looked splendid in the **COSTUMES** Elly and Tanja had created. The two dancers performed an elegant sequence of *classical* ballet steps.

Then the music grew in intensity, and it was Paulina's turn. She and Ryder **twirled** onstage in a stylish **tango**.

The audience murmured **admiringly** when the couple stopped in a dramatic pose, their paws woven together.



Suddenly the music changed tempo again, and the spotlight turned to Pamela and Craig, who **BOUNDED** onstage and tapped out a brisk rhythm with their paws. It was an exhilarating **hip-hop** performance!

Then the melody became softer, almost a murmur, and Violet glided forward. She was wearing a layered dress that looked like the petals of a **flower**. She twirled gracefully with her violin, and the sweet sounds of her instrument filled the room.

A moment later, Shen brightened the lights, and Nicky leaped onstage. She whirled through a series of **NIMBLE** jumps and pirouettes, then executed a perfect flip.


For the finale, the dancers came forward together and performed a **LIVELY** combination of dance moves. It was stunning!







As the music ended, everyone held their breath, waiting for Professor Ratyshnikov's **judgment**. Would the teacher remain at Mouseford to direct the new department? Or would she leave the island forever?

Professor Ratyshnikov remained silent for a moment that seemed to last forever. Then, slowly, a  crept across her snout.

**“Congratulations to all of you,
and thank you!”**

she said admiringly. “Your enthusiasm has brought me back many years . . . back to when I was a Mouseford student, just like you. I am impressed by the **originality** of your performance, and the hard work and dedication you put into it.”

There was a moment of stunned silence. The mouselets and their friends all looked



at one another. Then . . .

“YIPPEEEEEEE!” Pam cried.

The applause that followed seemed to last forever. The Thea Sisters’ team couldn’t stop hopping up and down like baby bunnies in a carrot patch. They were absolutely **overjoyed!**

Hooray!





A SPECIAL GIFT

Professor Ratyshnikov had finally made **peace** with the past.

“My dear Octavius!” she cried, embracing the headmaster like an **old friend**. “I want to thank you and your students for teaching me the importance of second chances.”

The headmaster shot Ruby and her friends a **STERN** look. “And that’s what we’re giving all of you: a **second chance**! We’ll overlook your cheating this time, but if you betray our trust again, it will be for the last time!”

Then he turned to Professor Ratyshnikov and pulled a small **BOX** out of his pocket. It was the same one she had refused the day





of her arrival. “Please allow me to honor you with this **special** gift.”

“For me?” she asked, surprised.

“*It’s the Seal of the Lizard,*” the headmaster explained. “For many years

I’ve waited to place this in the paws of the rodent who most deserves it: the one true **founder** of the Lizard Club!”



  The Thea Sisters and their classmates **CLAPPED** long and hard.  

Shen disappeared for a moment, and then the air filled once again with the **melody** he’d created for his team’s **PERFORMANCE**. Soon everyone was on their paws, dancing!

Professor Plié started to **twirl** with Colette, while Professor Aria and Professor



Plotfur did a wild jig.

“**LOOK!**” cried Nicky.

The headmaster had invited Professor Ratyshnikov to dance . . . and was now awkwardly trying to follow her **graceful** steps!

Violet winked at the other Thea Sisters.
“See, **SISTERS**? I knew this class was going
to be full of great
SURPRISES!”



A SPECIAL  GIFT

THEY WERE MORE THAN FRIENDS. THEY WERE SISTERS!

THE Thea Sisters





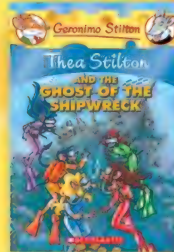
**Don't miss these exciting
Thea Stilton adventures!**



**Thea Stilton and the
Dragon's Code**



**Thea Stilton and the
Mountain of Fire**



**Thea Stilton and the
Ghost of the Shipwreck**



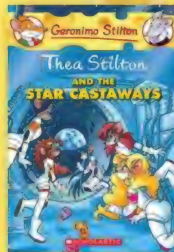
**Thea Stilton and the
Secret City**



**Thea Stilton and the
Mystery in Paris**



**Thea Stilton and the
Cherry Blossom Adventure**



**Thea Stilton and the
Star Castaways**



**Thea Stilton: Big Trouble
in the Big Apple**



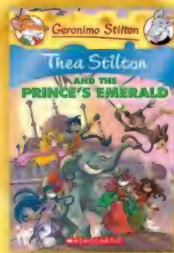
**Thea Stilton and the
Ice Treasure**



**Thea Stilton and the
Secret of the Old Castle**



**Thea Stilton and the
Blue Scarab Hunt**



**Thea Stilton and the
Prince's Emerald**



**Thea Stilton and the Mystery
on the Orient Express**



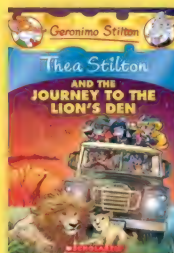
**Thea Stilton and the
Dancing Shadows**



**Thea Stilton and the
Legend of the Fire Flowers**



**Thea Stilton and the
Spanish Dance Mission**



**Thea Stilton and the
Journey to the Lion's Den**



**Thea Stilton and the
Great Tulip Heist**



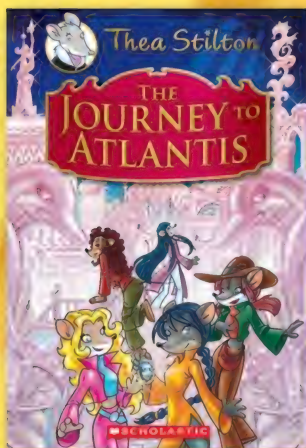
**Thea Stilton and the
Chocolate Sabotage**



**Thea Stilton and the
Missing Myth**



Check out
these very
special editions
featuring me
and the Thea
Sisters!



THE JOURNEY
TO ATLANTIS



THE SECRET OF
THE FAIRIES



THE SECRET OF
THE SNOW



**Be sure to read all my
fabumouse adventures!**



#1 Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye



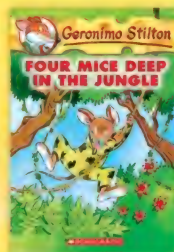
#2 The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid



#3 Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House



#4 I'm Too Fond of My Fur!



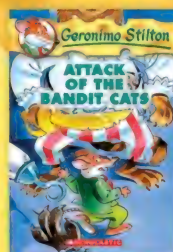
#5 Four Mice Deep in the Jungle



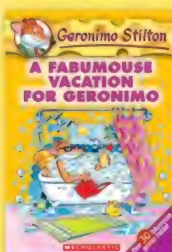
#6 Paws Off, Cheddarface!



#7 Red Pizzas for a Blue Count



#8 Attack of the Bandit Cats



#9 A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo



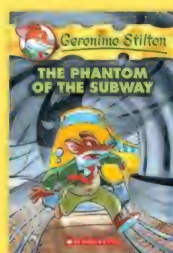
#10 All Because of a Cup of Coffee



#11 It's Halloween, You 'Fraidy Mouse!



#12 Merry Christmas, Geronimo!



#13 The Phantom of the Subway



#14 The Temple of the Ruby of Fire



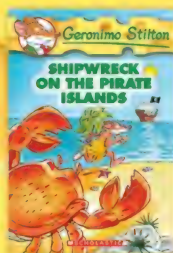
#15 The Mona Mousa Code



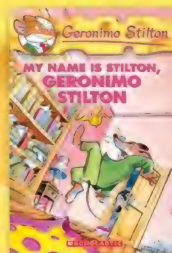
#16 A Cheese-Colored Camper



#17 Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton!



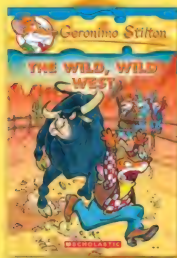
#18 Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands



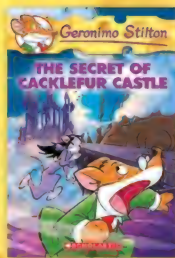
#19 My Name Is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton



#20 Surf's Up, Geronimo!



#21 The Wild, Wild West



#22 The Secret of Cacklefur Castle



A Christmas Tale



#23 Valentine's Day Disaster



#24 Field Trip to Niagara Falls



#25 The Search for Sunken Treasure



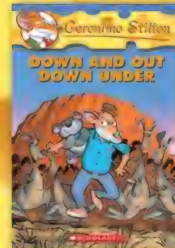
#26 The Mummy with No Name



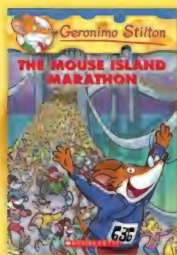
#27 The Christmas Toy Factory



#28 Wedding Crasher



#29 Down and Out Down Under



#30 The Mouse Island Marathon



#31 The Mysterious Cheese Thief



Christmas Catastrophe



#32 Valley of the Giant Skeletons



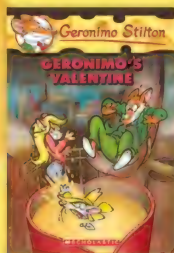
#33 Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery



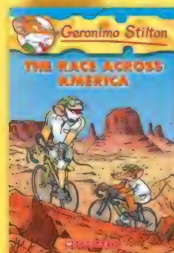
#34 Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent



#35 A Very Merry Christmas



#36 Geronimo's Valentine



#37 The Race Across America



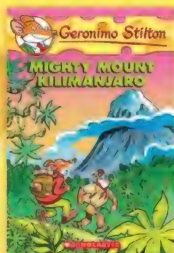
#38 A Fabumouse School Adventure



#39 Singing Sensation



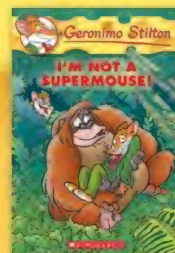
#40 The Karate Mouse



#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Thief



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!



#44 The Giant Diamond Robbery



#45 Save the White Whale!



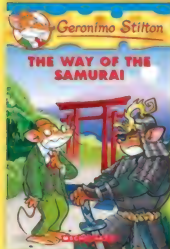
#46 The Haunted Castle



#47 Run for the Hills, Geronimo!



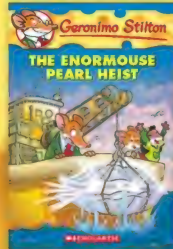
#48 The Mystery in Venice



#49 The Way of the Samurai



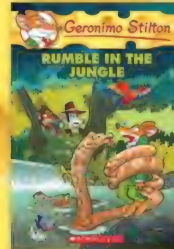
#50 This Hotel Is Haunted!



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist



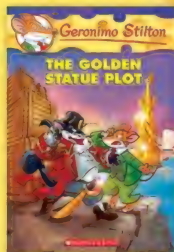
#52 Mouse in Space!



#53 Rumble in the Jungle



#54 Get into Gear, Stilton!



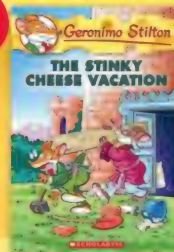
#55 The Golden Statue Plot



#56 Flight of the Red Bandit



The Hunt for the Golden Book



#57 The Stinky Cheese Vacation



#58 The Super Chef Contest



#59 Welcome to Moldy Manor

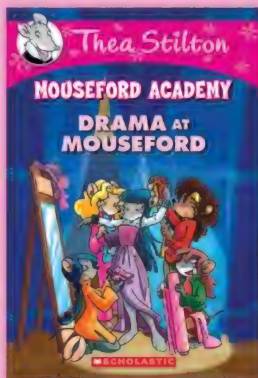


**Don't miss
my journey
through time!**





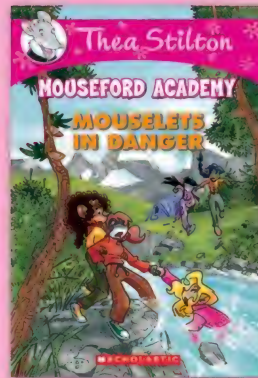
Don't miss
any of these
Mouseford
Academy
adventures!



#1 Drama at Mouseford



#2 The Missing Diary



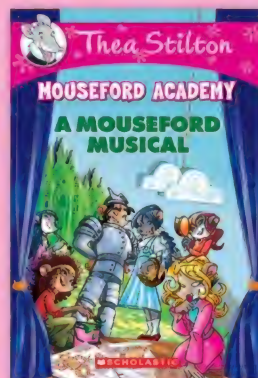
#3 Mouselets in Danger



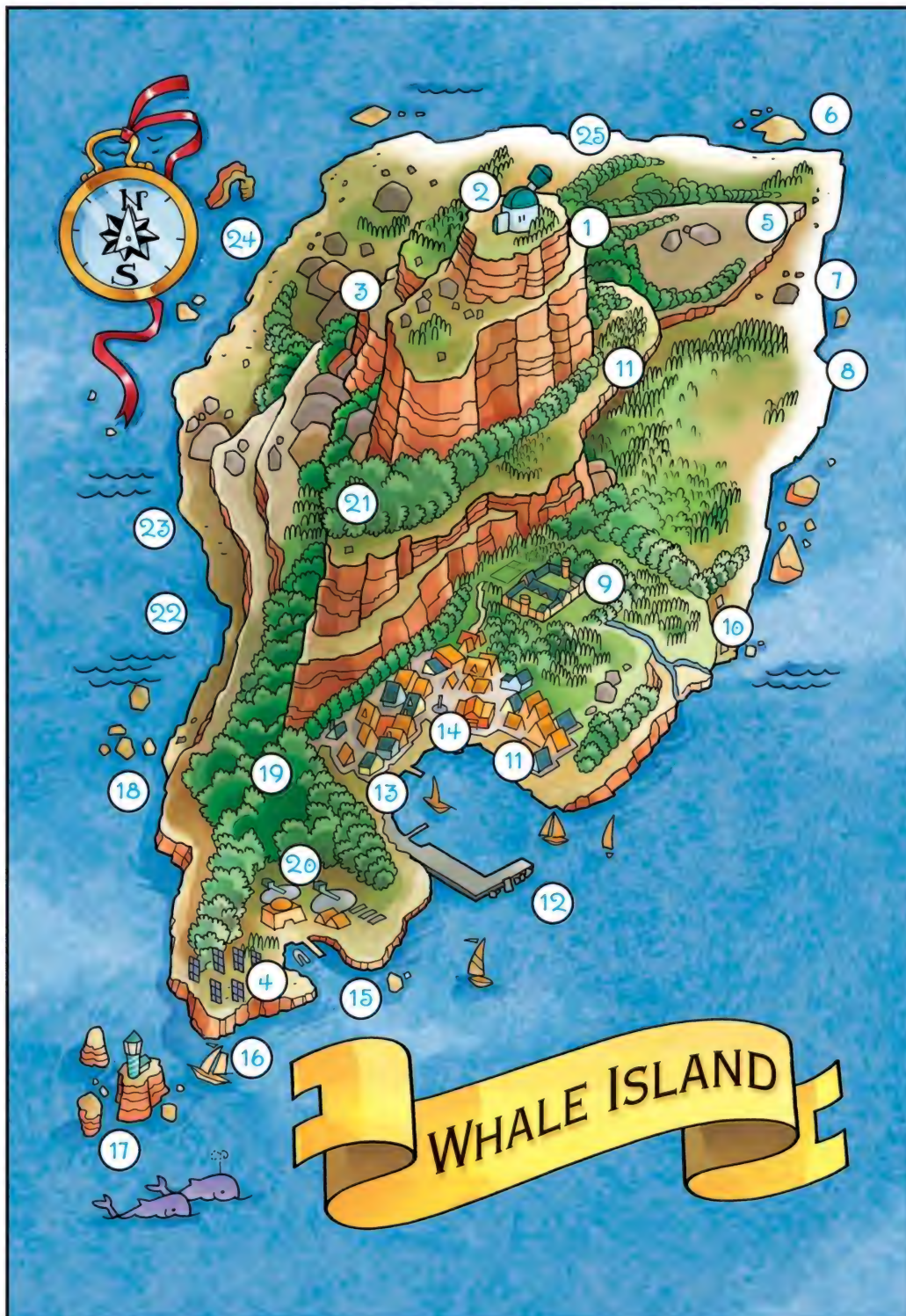
#4 Dance Challenge



#5 The Secret Invention



#6 A Mouseford Musical



MAP OF WHALE ISLAND

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Falcon Peak | 14. Town Square |
| 2. Observatory | 15. Butterfly Bay |
| 3. Mount Landslide | 16. Mussel Point |
| 4. Solar Energy Plant | 17. Lighthouse Cliff |
| 5. Ram Plain | 18. Pelican Cliff |
| 6. Very Windy Point | 19. Nightingale Woods |
| 7. Turtle Beach | 20. Marine Biology Lab |
| 8. Beachy Beach | 21. Hawk Woods |
| 9. Mouseford Academy | 22. Windy Grotto |
| 10. Kneecap River | 23. Seal Grotto |
| 11. Mariner's Inn | 24. Seagulls Bay |
| 12. Port | 25. Seashell Beach |
| 13. Squid House | |

THANKS FOR READING,
AND GOOD-BYE UNTIL OUR
NEXT ADVENTURE!



Thea Sisters

The Thea Sisters are five students at Mouseford Academy on Whale Island. They are adventurous, lively, fun mice, and they want to become journalists someday. Between lessons and friendship, life at Mouseford Academy is incredibly fabumouse!



DANCE CHALLENGE

The Thea Sisters are thrilled about the new performing arts program being offered at Mouseford Academy. That is, until they meet the head of the department – the demanding and strict Professor Ratyshnikov. The mouselets will have to audition just to get into her class! On top of that, the famous ballerina is an old friend of Headmaster de Mousus, but the two no longer get along. It's up to the Thea Sisters to find out why.

 **SCHOLASTIC**



More leveling information for this book:
www.scholastic.com/readinglevel

www.scholastic.com/geronimostilton
www.geronimostilton.com